

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated January 19, 2006. Claims 1- 70 were pending in this case. Of those claims, claims 1-40, 51, 54, 55 and 58 were previously withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. By this Amendment, Claims 41-46 and 62-70 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 47 and 56 have been amended to more clearly define the presently claimed invention. New claims 71-85 are being submitted for consideration. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 47-50, 52, 53, 56, 57 and 59-61 were previously rejected under 35 U. S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,100,423 to Fearnout (the "Fearnout patent"). Applicants note that claims 47 and 56 have been amended to recite that the bending regions of the proximal circumferential member are connected to and in phase with the bending regions of the distal circumferential member. This particular structure is not shown in the Fearnout patent. The structures which the Examiner has interpreted as bending regions in the Fearnout device remain unconnected and are not in phase with each other. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the Fearnout patent as an anticipatory reference to these pending claims.

New claims 71-85 are directed to particular structures which are not shown in the Fearnout patent or any patent of record. Accordingly, Applicants believe that these new claims are in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectively urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that
a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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